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1998/G 018 (5587*279)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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KARL-FRIEDRICH MUCK ET AL : PATENT NO. 5,994,455

SERIAL NO. 09/149,795 : ISSUED: NOVEMBER 30, 1999

FILED: SEPTEMBER 8, 1998 :

FOR: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION :
OF THERMALLY STABLE :
POLYOXYMETHYLENE :
COPOLYMERS

.....
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Box Reissue
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION

Sir:

The present reissue application contains a single amendment to claim 1 which is shown in the marked-up reissue application. Claim 1 is amended as follows:

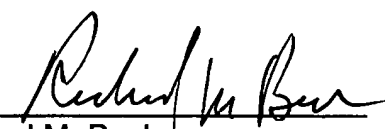
1. (Amended) A process for the preparation of polyoxymethylene copolymers exhibiting a reduced amount of unstable terminal end groups comprising, polymerizing 1,3,5-trioxane with at least one cyclic ether [and] or acetal comonomer with the aid of a strong protonic acid or Lewis acid initiator and in the presence of a formaldehyde dialkyl acetal, the improvement comprising dissolving the initiator in the formaldehyde dialkyl acetal before introducing the same to the trioxane and the comonomers.

Amended claim 1 defines patentable subject matter disclosed but not clearly claimed in the original Patent. The subject matter of the amendment to claim 1 is described in the original Patent at column 1, lines 21-23, where the known step of "copolymerizing trioxane with cyclic ethers or cyclic acetals" is explained. Claim 1 is in Jepson format where the background is initially set forth followed by the improvement of the present invention. Such background now recites polymerizing 1,3,5-trioxane with at least one cyclic ether or acetal comonomer. As amended, claim 1 does not require at least one cyclic ether and acetal comonomer. One or the other is sufficient as supported by the specification at column 1, lines 21-23 and the Examples at column 3, line 55 through column 4, line 52.

No additional fee is due. If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, including any fees required for an additional extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136, such an extension is requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any debit or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

A prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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DATE: November 30, 2001
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